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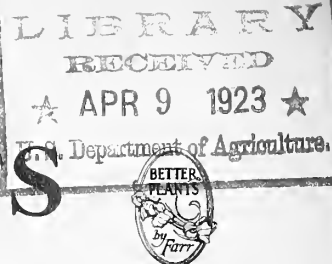
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# BETTER PLANTS

God's first gift to man was a Beautiful Garden



VOLUME I

APRIL, 1923

NUMBER 3

## Golden Lilies from May to September

Visitors aplenty come to Wyomissing each season. For several years one sight invariably brings forth exclamations of surprise and delight. Miss Kathryn Benade writes of this sight in language more beautiful than I can use, and which is here quoted:

"Through lesser patches of lovely columbine and fast-opening, proud peonies, little groups of woolly, helpless looking fir trees, over stretches of pleasant but very hot fields, the visitors went. And after awhile they came upon an enchanting stretch of color made by a field of purple irises, with a shaft of golden colored day lilies down the middle. The visitors sat quite still in the long grass and looked and gazed with all their hearts. They knew they must make the most of this draught of intoxicating color and sweetness.

Nearby, the poppies, in the hot sun, were brilliant against a background of mauve field on the slope, and everywhere was the wondrous color of the irises. 'I can't drink all the color,' one girl said. 'I should like to be it!' That was it. One felt the color racing through the veins and bringing a new joy of living. But one must be the color to know the full joy of it. It was as nearly oriental as we could hope for in these United States."

Because yellow day lilies are so very hardy anywhere, grown so easily that they become naturalized in almost any location, anyone may acquire similar masses of golden color with trifling expense and little effort, and while our day lilies are grown in the hot, dry fields, in open sun, they are more happily situated in fairly moist soil, around the margins of ponds or along the banks of running streams, where the music of the water and masses of day lilies conjure day dreams. A little shade is helpful as it lengthens the life of the individual blooms.

As its name implies, the life of each flower is but a day. All day its golden trumpet absorbs the sunshine and exhales its fragrance, and with the setting sun it closes its petals and dies, having fulfilled

### Hemerocallis YELLOW DAY LILY

its mission in life. As Ben Johnson expressed it:

"A Lily of a day is fairer far in May  
Although it fall and die that night,  
It was the plant and flower of light."



Where Day Lilies Conjure Day Dreams  
Charles Wellford Leavitt, Landscape Engineer

But as there are many buds on each stem, there is always a new lily each morning, to take the place of the fallen one. If the stems are cut and placed in water, the buds will open nearly in the same way. With good reason, the hemerocallis is always included in any list of twelve best perennials.

For a good succession of bloom to cover the longest period of time the following is a good selection of varieties, and can be used with full confidence that the blooms will be most charming:

**Dumortieri**, with orange-colored flowers shaded brown on the outside and stems one foot in height is the earliest, beginning in late May and continuing through early June.

**Flava** (Lemon Lily). Sweet-scented, clear yellow flowers. Height, 2½ feet. An old favorite; blooms in June.

**Gold Dust**. Rich clear yellow flowers. Height, 1½ feet. June.

**Sovereign**. Large, broad-petaled flowers, soft yellow shaded brown on the outside. Late June.

**Florham**. Very large, soft yellow blooms, beautifully frilled. One of the very best. Late June.

**Luteola**. A cross between *Thunbergii* and *Aurantiaca Major*. Fine, large, orange-yellow flowers. Height, 2½ feet. July.

**Thunbergii**. Much like *Flava*, but blooms a month later. Height, 3 feet.

**Ochroleuca**. A cross between *Citrina* and *Thunbergii*. Pale lemon-colored flowers on tall stems. Height, 3 feet. Late July.

**Citrina** (Wallace). A handsome new Chinese species, with beautiful light lemon-colored flowers, borne on very tall slender stems, 4½ to 5 feet high. The latest of all to bloom. There is another *Citrina* species introduced by Springer, which, while small-flowered, is the most beautifully formed of all, its petals being much recurved and of the form of the Turk's Cap Lily. This species, I think, is not at present in commerce.

**Aurantiaca Major** is considered the largest and handsomest flowered variety. Not hardy. Its parent, *Aurantiaca*, with large deep orange flowers shaded brown, blooms in July, is very choice, and perfectly hardy.

### HYBRIDIZING HEMEROCALLIS

A few years ago I spent a very delightful month among the hemerocallis (day lilies), beginning my hybridizing then. Did it pay? Well I got a lot of fun out of it and for results I got what might be called a perfectly hardy *Aurantiaca Major*.

I have some fine forms of *Citrina* hybrids combining the large size of *Citrina* with the beautifully recurved form of *Citrina Sprengeri* and extending the blooming season well into September. I have named some of the best forms and intended next season to offer them for sale, but our usually beautiful and placid Wyomissing stream became a raging torrent, caused by the bursting of a series of dams above, and most of them were washed away. I have had to begin over with the few I was able to save, and it will take time to replace them. I hope by 1924 they will increase to a point where I can begin to let them go out. We do have available, however, a number of these *Citrina* hybrids in mixture, all improvements on *Citrina*, which has the fault of only partially expanding its flowers, a fault these seedlings do not possess.—  
BERTRAND H. FARR, Feb. 15, 1923.

### THE INQUIRY

Thank you for replacing my rose, Dr. W. Van Fleet, which did not come true to name. I hope this one will be right.

Now for a few questions. Will *Anemone japonica*, *Queen Charlotte*, do well amongst *Achillea Ptarmica*, *The Pearl*? I have no shady place for them, but hoped I might plant some in my hardy border. Am raising the *achillea*, from seed.

Do lily bulbs multiply, viz. *Lilium candidum* or *L. auratum*? The same question of *gladioli*.

I have a lilac (*Jules Simon*, I think), which I bought from you in 1919. It has never bloomed. Is a very strong, sturdy, thrifty plant about 3 or 4 feet high. In the spring I have noticed that the tips of all the branches seemed to be broken off, whether from ice-storms or other agencies, I do not know. This year I have carefully protected it with high wire to see if I get any better results.

I also have a *Wistaria sinensis* planted in the fall of 1919. It has never bloomed. It was broken off to the ground the first winter by accident, but has sent up four thrifty shoots about 10 or 12 feet high. The ends of the vines seem to shrivel and dry up as they get very long in summer. Should it be pruned to make it bloom?

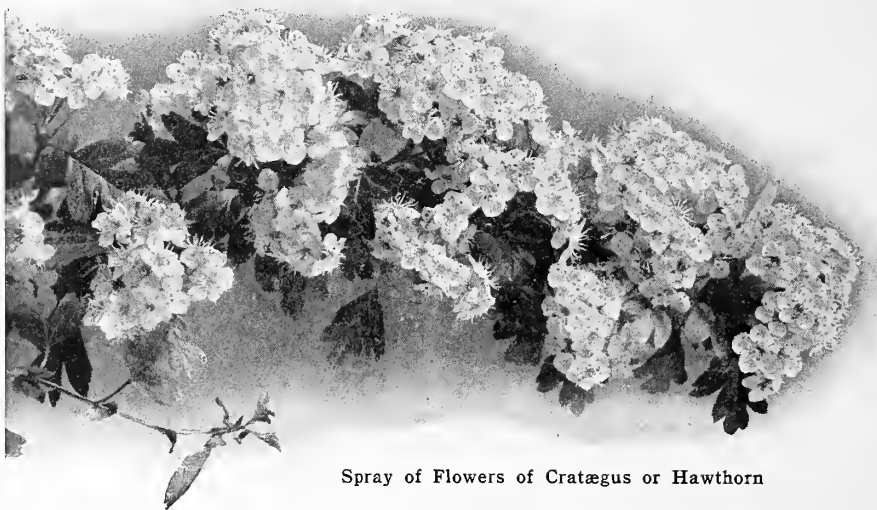
When a rose continually sends out suckers from below the ground, what can be done to stop them? I have broken them off repeatedly and still they reappear. The bush is one of those old-fashioned early double yellow sorts with finely cut foliage; the suckers are a rampant large-leaved green, with no flowers.—Mrs. WM. E. G. January 18, 1923.

### THE REPLY

We are very glad to answer the questions contained in your recent letter, because we feel it is a duty of ours to keep our customers well informed, so that they may get better results from the plants that we supply.

*Anemone*, *Queen Charlotte* will grow very nicely amongst *achillea*, but because of the thrifty growth of the *achillea*, the *anemone* may be choked out unless the *achillea* is kept in check. The *anemone*, of course, does better in a shady, moist soil, but it does almost equally as well in exposed places.

*Lilium candidum* and *gladioli* bulbs will



Spray of Flowers of *Crataegus* or Hawthorn

multiply, but we have yet to hear of a case where *auratum* will increase. We are wondering if you are acquainted with *Lilium regelianum*. This is a most satisfactory lily, being entirely hardy and thriving almost anywhere. It is waxy white, with a pink shading, tinged with canary-yellow at the base.

From your description, we feel sure that your lilac is troubled with borers. The lilac borer enters the terminal bud and works his way down until he reaches the crown, and finally makes such a large cavity that the plant is broken off at the base. You will readily understand that by entering the terminal buds, he destroys the possibility of that particular plant flowering. We recommend that you cut back the tips of the branches and see if you discover any channels where this borer may be working. If so, cut back until no trace can be seen and in this way eliminate the pest. We can think of no other reason why this lilac should not bloom.

The *wistaria* has always been notorious in its stubbornness to bloom. In fact, in most cases the plant is several years old before it shows much sign of blooming. By all means trim back those long shoots so that laterals will be drawn out and make the plant more stocky and thrifty. This trimming can be done anytime through the summer and thus eliminate the long, slender shoots that greatly weaken the plant. This is more or less similar to the fast-growing child who sometimes grows so rapidly that his health is undermined. Fortunately, the *wistaria* can be cut back.

In regard to eliminating suckers on your rose bush, dig away the soil so that you can get to the base of the sucker, that is, where it joins the root, and rip it off. If this is broken off above the union, there still remain several eyes at the base which will grow and give you further trouble, but by reaching the union, they are destroyed and will help to minimize this trouble.

We trust that the above information will help you to obtain better results and we want you to feel free to ask us any similar questions along these lines.

LESTER NEEDHAM, Manager.

*"The garden should be a resting place for weary eyes or head or heart."*

### THE HAWTHORNS (*CRATÆGUS*)

The family of hawthorns (*cratægus*) furnishes a greater number of handsome small trees and shrubs for ornamental grounds than any other woody family. They consist of a large genus, widely distributed in the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere, most abundant in North America, where between eight hundred and nine hundred species have been described, while in the Old World only about sixty species are known.

The hawthorns are hardy, ornamental shrubs or trees, mostly of dense and low growth, with handsome foliage, turning, in most species, to a brilliant coloring in the fall. Almost all have attractive white, pink, or crimson flowers. Most of the species have very decorative fruit, persisting on the trees until late into the winter; some species ripen their large fruits in August, but these soon drop to the ground.

### Arnold Arboretum and Highland Park Collection

It was my privilege to visit the Arnold Arboretum, near Boston, in the fall of 1917; among many of the seeds that were then gathered was a collection of the hawthorns from some of the finest and most heavily fruited specimens. Many of these species and others from Highland Park, Rochester, N. Y., include some of the best American sorts, which are unexcelled.

The hawthorns are remarkable, not only for their fragrant flowers and ornamental fruit, but for the variations common in both. The flowers are usually white, but in the cultivated varieties vary to pink and crimson. Sometimes the fruit is globular, sometimes oblong, but generally smooth and polished, and in some cases quite downy, while the color varies from black and dark red to orange-yellow and white. The double-flowering varieties are especially beautiful. Some of our native species are among the most ornamental low trees we have in our gardens, being, when in bloom, completely covered with pure white flowers of delicious fragrance.

Because of the time of their coming into flower, they have been quite commonly called the "May-tree." From the perfect

(Concluded on page 4)



### HEZA WIZWON

Knows now that spring is here and takes advantage of every minute he can find for garden work

#### "APRIL"

Garden Plans and Activities for the Middle Atlantic States. Every hundred miles north or south makes a difference of from five to seven days.

"We may shut our eyes, but we cannot help knowing

That skies are clear and grass is growing;

The breeze comes whispering in our ear,  
That dandelions are blossoming near."

—Lowell.

1. Again we stress on preventive spraying and last-minute pruning, particularly of the hardy roses. If you are not certain as to procedure, write to us, refer to back numbers of "Better Plants" or confer with your County Agent.

2. Overhaul perennial beds and borders. Thinning out is more important than you may realize. Provide for filling in voids by dividing old plants and by purchasing new ones. Dig under some good manure or give the beds a top dressing of raw crushed bone. We can furnish bone-meal on request.

3. Plant summer-blooming bulbs, such as gladioli, montbretias, begonias, etc. Plant gladioli at intervals to obtain succession of bloom.

4. Give all climbing annuals and perennials strong and ample support for the coming growth. Make a last-minute inspection tour of the garden with notebook in hand.

5. The lawn should be looked after carefully to assure a velvety green sward this summer. Sod any small bald spots and spade and seed down large places. A good plan, where sod is hard to obtain, is to remove sod from an inconspicuous part of the lawn for the small bare spots and then seed the space where sod was removed. An application of bone-meal or wood-ashes will well repay you.

6. Seeds of the more hardy flowers, such as snapdragons, asters, alyssum, calendula, centaurea, pansies, violas, scabiosa, etc., may be sown outside at this time. Have the soil well pulverized as flower seeds are very fine.

7. Before the trees and shrubs leaf out

it is advisable to go over them carefully, destroying any caterpillar nests before they hatch. An asbestos torch is the best weapon to use; slight scorching will not injure the plants.

8. All borders or open spaces around plants should be kept loosened up with a digging fork. This admits the necessary air to the soil and also prevents the rapid evaporation of the moisture if the weather is dry and sunny.

9. Plants in tubs intended as specimens for the grounds should be watered freely with liquid manures. When it is not convenient to make or use this, a top-dressing of pure cow-manure can be applied to them.

10. Any trees that have been recently transplanted must not be neglected. Liberal watering is essential, and heavy mulching is imperative. Make soil tests to see that the soil below the roots is sufficiently moist.

11. Recently planted trees of 3-inch caliper or over, which have smooth bark—sugar maples, lindens, etc.—are subject to sun-scald. Apply a covering of burlap from the ground to the lowest branches and moisten frequently.

12. Early planting is the first essential to success. Finish all plantings of deciduous trees and shrubs at the first opportunity. Firm the plants well in the soil and don't allow them to suffer from lack of water.

13. We are now at the height of our limited spring shipping season. Shrubs can be shipped and planted safely only from the time the ground opens until they break into heavy bud; perennials can be shipped and planted safely until hot weather sets in; iris from now on until the ground freezes in fall. Place your orders accordingly.

14. Practically all fall blooming plants can be set now to give results this year. Spring-blooming plants should be ordered now for fall shipment, unless you have

had successful experience with late spring planting.

15. Protective coverings for Holland bulbs should be carefully removed as soon as reasonably certain that serious late spring frosts will not recur.

### OWN IRISES AND PEONIES BY THE THOUSAND

Picture a thousand plants of blooming irises or peonies blooming in a garden, an estate, a field or a meadow. Perhaps you think the cost of owning such a collection is out of proportion to the benefit derived. Look at these prices and if you have the planting space, your pride of ownership and shrewd buying instinct will urge you to buy—now.

We will furnish from surplus, our selection of plants, in standard and proved varieties.

	Peonies	Irises
1,000 in 10 varieties.....	\$150 00	\$75 00
1,000 in 20 varieties.....	175 00	87 50
1,000 in 40 varieties.....	200 00	100 00
1,000 in 100 varieties.....	225 00	112 50
100 in 10 varieties.....	25 00	12 50
100 in 20 varieties.....	35 00	17 50
100 in 50 varieties.....	45 00	22 50

These prices are possible only when the selection is left to us. Prices in miscellaneous quantities on request. We guarantee that the general landscape and blooming effect will be equal to that of the highest priced peonies and irises.

#### "APRIL"

#### SPECIAL COLLECTION BARGAINS

##### Cut-flowers from June to August

12 Hemerocallis in 12 varieties.....	\$3 50
24 Hemerocallis in 12 varieties.....	6 50
48 Hemerocallis in 12 varieties.....	10 00
5 Rudbeckia in 5 varieties.....	1 50
10 Rudbeckia in 5 varieties.....	2 50
20 Rudbeckia in 5 varieties.....	4 00



The grand display of the Irises reaches its climax in June, when the German varieties flood the garden with color



### The Hawthorns, concluded

hardiness of the species and appearance, both in flower and fruit, which never fails, they should be cultivated in preference to the foreign kinds.

The different species vary in the time of ripening their fruits and in the period of duration. About twenty-six species give a good fruit display from August to mid-winter.

### Cratægus for Landscape Purposes

The landscape gardener cannot make any mistake in planting them in liberal quantities in private estates or public parks. They are very much benefited by liberal pruning when transplanted from nursery or woodland. The native American hawthorns are almost invariably found growing in heavy limestone clay, although they may occasionally overlap into sandy soil. When necessary to plant them in sandy soil, they should be liberally enriched with well-rotted manure and kept well mulched. They grow well in exposed positions and, as a rule, do not like much shade. They are not exactly particular as to the soil, but grow best in limestone soil, also in a rich, loamy, somewhat moist soil, and even in strong clay. In a young state, they should be grown to one stem, whether they are of the arborescent or of the shrubby species. Under this treatment they make beautiful garden plants. The species of the *Pruinosæ* and *Medioxæ* groups have, perhaps, the most highly colored foliage.

### Cratægus for Parks and Estates

The American hawthorns are highly ornamental subjects for the planting of parks and private estates. Some of the species markedly retain their fruits without shrinkage of the pulp or loss of color until early winter. The absolute hardihood and the bold, rugged branching habits characteristic of most of them make them very interesting objects where their leafless forms are outlined in a winter landscape.—ROBERT L. PIERCE, Propagating Foreman, Farr Nurseries.

## HEMEROCALLIS

### Yellow Day Lily

(Greek: "Beautiful by day;" because the blossoms close at night)

Lemon Lilies, or *Hemerocallis flava*, have long been favorites in our gardens, and are always included in any list of the most popular hardy plants. All of the varieties of *Hemerocallis* are desirable and beautiful. The tall, graceful, grass-like foliage is very handsome and sets off the charming, lily-like flowers very effectively. Lemon Lilies are perfectly hardy, thrive in almost any location, look particularly well naturalized along streams or on moist banks, and will thrive most luxuriantly in partial shade. They have been much improved in recent years, and many new hybrids have been introduced, which are more richly colored and much larger than the original form, blooming more profusely, and lasting a long time in water when cut.

**Apricot.** A new variety. Very distinct, rich apricot. 2½ feet. June.

**Aurantiaca.** A species of recent introduction, with very large, deep orange flowers, shaded brown. One of the finest hardy plants. 2 ft. July.

**Aureole.** A Japanese hybrid. Deep orange-yellow, with bronze reverse. Extra fine. 2 ft.

**Dumortieri.** Orange-colored flowers, shaded brown on the outside. The earliest to bloom. 1 ft. May and June.

**Florham.** A fine hybrid of American origin. Very large, soft yellow flowers, beautifully frilled. One of the very best.

**Fulva** (Brown Day Lily). Coppery orange, shaded crimson. Especially good for naturalizing. 3 ft. July.

**Gold Dust.** Large, rich clear yellow flowers. June. 1½ ft.

**Kwanso flore-pleno** (Double Orange Lily). Double flowers of great substance, remaining longer in bloom than any other variety; deep orange, shaded crimson. 4 ft. June and July.

**Luteola.** A cross between *Aurantiaca* major and *Thunbergii*. Fine orange-yellow flowers; large and very free-blooming variety. 2½ ft. July.

**Ochroleuca.** A cross between *Citrina* and *Thunbergii*. Large, pale lemon-colored flowers on tall stems. 3 ft. July.

**Sovereign.** Large, broad-petaled flowers; soft chrome-yellow, shaded brown on the outside. 2½ ft. Late June.

**Thunbergii.** Similar to *H. flava*, but blooming a month later.

## HEMEROCALLIS CITRINA

### Farr's New Hybrids

*Citrina* is a very handsome new Chinese species, with beautiful light lemon-colored flowers, borne on very tall slender stems 4½ to 5 feet in height. The flowers in the species have the fault of not opening well, but by crossing these with one of the large-flowered kinds, I have produced a strain with much larger, and more widely expanded flowers of most perfect form and great durability. They are the latest of all to bloom, continuing until September.

## RUBBECKIA

**Golden Glow.** One of the most popular hardy plants. Grows 6 feet high, producing masses of large, double, golden yellow flowers, shaped like a cactus dahlia.

**Herbstsonne** (Autumn Sun). Late-flowering with large golden yellow flowers on tall stems.

**Maxima.** A variety with bluish green foliage, and large, single flowers, 5 inches in diameter, with a conspicuous central cone 2 inches in length.

**Newmannii.** The perennial form of the "Black-eyed Susan." Deep, orange-yellow flowers, with a dark purple cone; long, wiry stems 3 feet high; blooms all summer.

**Rays of Gold.** An improvement on *Golden Glow*. Narrow petals, forming a perfect globe.

**Bertrand H. Farr—Wyomissing Nurseries Company**  
1250 Garfield Avenue, Wyomissing, Penna.



Rudbeckia, Golden Glow, for Sun, Shade  
and Dry Places

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Washington D C

**BETTER PLANTS—APRIL, 1923**  
A Magazine Devoted to the Hardy Garden

which entire small-flow-